

THE SF&F NEWSLETTER

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In Brief --

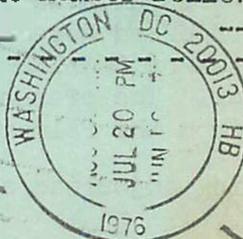
Sorry this issue is so late; we started it at the beginning of July (ref. our remarks re July PRSFS meeting on pg. 2), but had eye trouble shortly thereafter, and only just yesterday were able to resume our stencil-typing. And, as you can tell by all the "Cont. next issue" comments in this issue, there will be another issue shortly after this one (7-21 days); we have started using short book reviews (of which we have only a couple left--more needed, in a hurry....) and review extracts in SFN, so space will be at a premium and we are likely to increase the frequency to once every 2-3 weeks. ## As for TSJ #88 (Leinster issue), it will follow as soon as Stout Memorial issue of TMN is out (have completed all but Stout biblio, which should be finished next week; still need cover, biblio and book reviews for Leinster issue--if you have any corrections or additions to the Owings biblio distributed with TWJ some time back, please send as soon as possible. ## July PRSFS meeting held July 16; featured were two films provided by Bill Mayhew: Junk Dump (interesting; made by Iowa Univ. students) and the 1923 René Clair silent precursor to The Day the Earth Stood Still, The Crazy Ray; there was also tape recording of Harlan Ellison reading his story, "Waiting for Kadak", provided by Katy Ramsey. Aug. meeting still 3rd Friday, 8 p.m., tentative program on Star Trek.

THE LOCAL SCENE (cont. from pg. 6): "features a tour of flight in America during the past 200 years beginning with a balloon ascension in post-colonial times and ending with a space trip". ## WAMU-FM (88.5): 26/7, 9:30 p.m., CBS Radio Workshop ("When the Mountain Fell", starring Barry Kroger "in a strange tale about the living dead"; WBJC-FM (91.5): 26/7, The Avenger (7 p.m.). ## Arena Stage's 1976-77 season will include musical based on comic strip, The Wizard of Id (more info later).

SFN is at least monthly. It & its mystery & games counterparts, THE MYSTERY MONITOR & THE GAMING NEWS, are 30¢ ea., 4/\$1 (50p). Assoc. Genzines, THE SF&F JOURNAL, THE MYSTERY NOOK, & THE GAMESMAN, are approx. quarterly, 40-60 pp., \$1.25 ea., 4/\$4 in U.S. (elsewhere, \$1.50 ea., 4/\$5). Ads 2¢/35-char. line classified (5 lines/issue free to subbers/traders), \$1.50/printed side pre-printed flyers (\$1 subbers/traders), minimum 200 copies needed. Address Code Meaning in #6, but remember that K = Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed inside, N = You are mentioned inside, L = This is the last issue you will receive, unless...., and the number following a "W" indicates the last issue on your sub.

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## THE CLUB CIRCUIT

ESFA REPORT -- Minutes of Meeting of June 6, 1976 (by Allan Howard, Secretary).

The meeting was called to order at 3:19 p.m. by Director Fogaris, with an attendance of 11 persons. The Secretary's minutes were read and accepted. The Treasurer was absent because of illness.

Bill Benthake gave a brief report on the recent Disclave in Washington, D.C. Approximately 500 people attended. Mike Fogaris called attention to a new publication, MYSTERY MAGAZINE, which sells for \$1.00 and has some marginal interest for the SF fan. Joe Wrzos read a review by Ursula K. Le Guin of L. Sprague de Camp's Lovecraft biography which had appeared in the LONDON TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT. While the review of the book itself was generally favorable, Le Guin devoted part of it to criticising Lovecraft as an exceptionally bad writer, while admitting that the tales can be frightening if read alone at night. Joe also passed on the information that the June 14 issue of PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY will be an all-SF issue, covering many aspects of the field. While addressed primarily to librarians and booksellers, the issue should be of interest to fans of every stripe. It sells for \$1.00 and the address is:

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY  
P.O. Box 641  
Times Square Station  
N.Y., NY 10036.

Julius Postal read an obituary of Hugo Gernsback from the NEW YORK TIMES of August 20, 1967. Sam Moskowitz added that he has acquired new biographical information on Gernsback, including that gained in a four-hour interview with Harvey Gernsback. This will eventually be included in an explanation of Sam's piece on Gernsback that was published in Explorers of the Infinite. Sam also revealed that he has been brought up on charges by the Science Fiction Writer's of America on accusations by a writer and two agents. They contend that it is unethical to use public-domain stories without payment to the author's heirs, or to buy stories direct from the copyright owners, rather than going through agents. Sam says that he has made payment for public-domain stories on a selective basis, and as for agents or the writers they represent, they cannot sell something they do not own.

The Director put up for discussion the idea of suspending meetings for July and August. Sam Moskowitz moved so, seconded by Joe Wrzos. Carried Unanimously. The next meeting will be the second Sunday in September.

Sam Moskowitz presented "A Pictorial History of AMAZING STORIES" in slides, with commentary by former editor Joseph Wrzos. The first slide was a Vincent Lynch cover of a 1919 ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER, featuring an SF story, "At War with the Invisible". There followed two SF-oriented covers from 1922 and 1923 issues of SCIENCE AND INVENTION. Other highlight and landmark covers and interior illustrations of AMAZING STORIES through the years were presented. Among the artists represented were Paul, Wesso, Morey, St. John, MacCauley, Fuqua, and Browne. Interspersed were covers from FANTASTIC, and the single issue of the projected series of AMAZING SF NOVELS, which featured 20 Million Miles from Earth, by Henry Slesar. The presentation ended with Paul's famous "Planet Cities" back-cover series from the Palmer era.

The meeting adjourned about 6 p.m.

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PRSES NOTES -- June meeting was on Time-Travel, and was most interesting. July and August meeting dates changed to 3rd Friday at 8 p.m. because Library had already booked events for 2nd Fridays for those months. Back to 2nd Friday in Sept., thru June '77 at least. Farmer program postponed from July (scheduled speaker is in hospital); July will have a "potpourri" meeting. (Our tape of June meeting is dud.)  
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Books:

Hardback -- Black Vulmea's Vengeance & Other Tales of Pirates, by Robert E. Howard (Donald M. Grant; \$15; '76; 7 3/8" x 10 3/4"; dj & 7 full-page color illos by Robert James Pailthorpe; uniform w/previous books in deluxe Howard edition; Contents: "Swords of the Red Brotherhood", "Black Vulmea's Vengeance", "The Isle of Pirates' Doom"; 223 pp.); Brothers of Earth, by C.J. Cherryh (Nelson Doubleday; SFBC ed.; 246 pp.; wraparound dj by D.K. Stone; an Earthman is stranded for life on an alien planet--he must adapt quickly, or die....); The Dragon and the George, by Gordon R. Dickson (Nelson Doubleday; SFBC ed.; 244 pp.; dj by Boris Vallejo; Jim Eckert is transported to an alternate medieval universe--implanted in the body of a huge dragon); Future Power, ed. Jack Dann & Gardner R. Dozois (Random House; SFBC ed.; xci / 197 pp.; Introduction; 9 SF stories "about the applications and repercussions of power in the near and far future": "The Diary of the Rose", by Ursula K. LeGuin; "The Country of the Kind", by Damon Knight ('54); "Smoe and the Implicit Clay", by R.A. Lafferty; "She Waits for All Men Born", by James Tiptree, Jr.; "The Day of the Big Test", by Felix C. Gotschalk; "Contentment, Satisfaction, Cheer, Well-Being, Gladness, Joy, Comfort, and Not Having to Get Up Early Any More", by George Alec Effinger; "Thanatos", by Vonda N. McIntyre; "The Eyeflash Miracles", by Gene Wolfe); The Iron Man & Other Tales of the Ring, by Robert E. Howard (Donald M. Grant; \$7; '76; 186 pp.; 5 1/4" x 7 3/4"; dj & 3 full-page b/w illos by David Ireland; Introduction; 4 stories about a boxer: "Men of Iron", "The Iron Man", "They Always Come Back", "Fists of the Desert"); Time of the Fourth Horseman, by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro (Doubleday & Co.; \$5.95; '76; 183 pp.; dj by Richard Mantel; a secret government program to thin out the population, by starting a mild epidemic at a time when all the deadly diseases have been wiped out, backfires....).

Paperback -- The Best of A.E. Van Vogt, by A.E. Van Vogt (Pocket Book #80546; \$1.85; 7/76; 256 pp.; Introd., "Ah, Careless, Rapturous Van Vogt!", by Barry N. Malzberg; 11 entries: "Don't Hold Your Breath" ('73), "All We Have on This Planet", "War of Nerves" ('50), "The Rull" ('48), "The Semantics of Twenty-first-Century Science"; "Future Perfect" ('73), "Being an Examination of the Ponsian and Holmesian Secret Deductive Systems", "Home of the Gods" ('47), "The Violent Male", Prologue to "The Silkie" ('69), "The Proxy Intelligence" ('68)); The Best Science Fiction of the Year #5, ed. Terry Carr (Ballantine #25064; \$1.95; 7/76; xi / 368 pp.; Introd. by Carr; "Recommended Reading--1975", by Carr; "The Science Fiction Year", by Charles N. Brown; 12 stories: "Down to a Sunless Sea", by Cordwainer Smith (F&SF 10/75); "Retrograde Summer", by John Varley (F&SF 2/75); "The Hero as Werwolf", by Gene Wolfe (The New Improved Sun, '75); "The Silent Eyes of Time", by Algis Budrys (F&SF 11/75); "Croatoan", by Harlan Ellison (F&SF 5/75); "Doing Lennon", by Gregory Benford (ANALOG 4/75); "The New Atlantis", by Ursula K. LeGuin (The New Atlantis and Other Novellas of Science Fiction, '75); "Clay Suburb", by Robert F. Young (AMAZING 11/75); "The Storms of Windhaven", by Lisa Tuttle & George R. R. Martin (ANALOG 5/75); "Child of All Ages", by P.J. Plauger (ANALOG 3/75); "In the Bowl", by John Varley (F&SF 12/75); "Sail the Tide of Mourning", by Richard A. Lupoff (New Dimensions 5, '75)); Camber of Culdi, by Katherine Kurtz (Ballantine #24590; \$1.95; 7/76; cover (wraparound) by Ted Coconis; xx / 314 pp.; Vol. IV in the "Chronicles of the Deryni"); Chieftain of Andor, by Andrew J. Offutt (Dell #4551; \$1.25; 5/76; 203 pp.; cover not credited; "Reborn in a warrior's body, he cut his way to a king's glory in a land of alien terrors"); The Confetti Man, by Bonnie Jones Reynolds (Ballantine #25251; \$1.95; 7/76; orig. pub. '75 by Stein & Day; 408 pp.; the story of a "sensual madonna" who was enslaved to the "dark demands of a man who died one hundred years before"); The Cross of Frankenstein, by Robert J. Myers (Pocket Book #80542; \$1.75; 7/76; orig. '75 by J.B. Lippincott; 189 pp.; cover by Alan Magee; novel of the monster loose in the wilds of America); Health and Light, by John N. Ott (Pocket Book #80537; \$1.95; 7/76; orig. '73 by Devin-Adair; 222 pp.; non-fiction: "The Effects of Natural and Artificial Light on Man and Other Living Things"); The Healing Mind, by Dr. Irving Oyle (Pocket Book #80535; \$1.95;

(Over)

THE STEADY STREAM.....: Books Rec'd During 6/76 (Continued) --

7/76; orig. '75 by Celestial Arts; 191 pp.; non-fiction: how to "free the extraordinary curative powers and energies locked within you"); The Horror in the Museum and Other Revisions, by H.P. Lovecraft & Others (Ballantine #25094; \$1.50; 7/76 (1st prntg. 10/71); 245 pp.; cover & b&w illo inside cover by Murray Tinkelman; 10 stories: "The Crawling Chaos" and "The Green Meadow", by H.P. Lovecraft & Elizabeth Berkeley; "Winged Death" and "The Horror in the Museum", by Hazel Heald; "The Diary of Alonzo Typer", by William Lumley; "The Horror in the Burying Ground", by Hazel Heald; "The Electric Executioner", by Adolphe de Castro; "The Curse of Yig" and "The Mound", by Zealia Bishop; "Two Black Bottles", by Wilfred Blanch Talman); Jesus Christ: Heir to the Astronauts, by Gerhard R. Steinhäuser (Pocket Book #80548; \$1.75; 7/76; orig. pub. '75 by Abelard-Schuman; 176 pp.; non-fiction: "begins where Chariots of the Gods left off"); Money is Love, by Richard Condon (Ballantine #24971; \$1.95; 6/76; orig. '75 by Dial Press; 308 pp.; "Gene Quebaro's life began the day he was brutally murdered . . . with a little financial help from the gods . . ."); The Pastel City, by M. John Harrison (Avon #29837; \$1.25; 7/76; 1st prntg. 7/74; orig. pub. '71 by Doubleday & Co.; 157 pp.; cover not credited; "Far in the future, gallant knights battle the wild forces of a dying technology"); Prelude to Space, by Arthur C. Clarke (Ballantine #25113; \$1.50; 7/76; 1st. prntg. 3/54; orig. pub. '54 by Gnome Press, based on material in GALAXY in '51; 179 pp.; "the compelling story of the launching of Prometheus--Earth's first true spaceship--and of the men who made it happen"); Return to the Planet of the Apes #3: Man, the Hunted Animal, by William Arrow (Ballantine #25211; \$1.50; 7/76; 184 pp.; based on teleplays: "River of Flame", by Jack Kaplan & John Barrett; "Screaming Wings", by Kaplan & Barrett; "Trail to the Unknown", by Larry Spiegel).

Frozines:

U.S. -- ANALOG SCIENCE FICTION/SCIENCE FACT 8/76 (96:8; ed. Ben Bova; pub. Condé Nast; monthly; \$1 (55p) ea.; \$9/yr., \$16/2 yrs., \$21/3 yrs. U.S.; \$11/\$20/\$27 Canada & Mexico; \$12/yr. elsewhere; from: Box 5205, Boulder, CO 80302; cover by John Schoenherr; illos by Schoenherr, Rick Sternbach, Doug Beekman, Kelly Freas; Serial: "Shadrach in the Furnace", by Robert Silverberg (Pt. 1/3); Novelette: "The Far Traveller", by A. Bertram Chandler (w/Cmdr. Grimes); Short Stories by Eric Vinicoff & Marcia Martin, Bud Sparhawk; Features: Editorial ("Genetic Politics"); "Probability Zero", by Hayford Peirce; Book Reviews by Lester del Rey; lettercolumn; "An Inter sw with Carl Sagan", by Joseph F. Goodavage); FANTASTIC SWORD & SORGERY & FANTASY STORIES 8/76 (25:4; ed. Ted White; pub. Sol Cohen; quarterly; \$1 (40p) ea.; \$4/yr. U.S., \$4.50 elsewhere; from Box 7, Oakland Gdns, Flushing, NY 11364; cover by Steve Fabian; illos by Fabian, Daniel J. Steffan, Tony Gleeson, Joe Staton, Richard Olsen; 134 pp. (ANALOG had 180, we should have noted above); Novelettes: "Bloody Man", by Avram Davidson; "God of the Naked Unicorn", by "Ova Hamlet"; "The Atheling's Wife", by Dennis More (seq. to "Fugitives in Winter"); Short Stories by Grania Davis, L. Sprague de Camp, Clark Ashton Smith & Lin Carter, Steven Utley; Features: Editorial; Fantasy Book Reviews by Fritz Leiber; lettercolumn); GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION 7/76 (37:5; ed. James Baen; pub. UPD; "monthly"; \$1 (40p) ea.; 12/\$12 U.S., \$13 elsewhere; from 350 Kennedy Ave., Hauppauge, NY 11787; 164 pp.; cover by Fabian; illos by Ames, Fabian, Freff, Gaughan; Serial: "The Hand of Oberon", by Roger Zelazny (Pt. 2/3); Novelettes: "Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance", by John Varley; "Toward the Fullness of Fate", by John Kennedy; Short Stories by Steven Utley, Diana King; Features: "Lasers, Grasers and Marxists", by J.E. Pournelle; Book Reviews, by Spider Robinson; lettercolumn); THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION 8/76 (51:2; #302; ed. Edward L. Ferman; pub. Mercury Press; monthly; \$1 (55p) ea.; \$10/yr. U.S., \$11 Canada & Mexico, \$12 elsewhere; from: Box 56, Cornwall, CT 06753; 164 pp.; cover by Greg Bear; Serial: "Michaelmas", by Algis Budrys (Pt. 1/2); Novelette: "The Cinderella Machine", by Michael G. Coney ("Peninsula" story); Short Stories by Richard Frede, Don Trotter, Raylyn Moore, L. Sprague de Camp; Features: Book Reviews, by Budrys; Cartoon by Gahan Wilson; Beard Searles on Films; Science Article ("Moving Ahead"), by Isaac Asimov; lettercolumn).

(Cont. next issue)

## THE SHAPE OF S.F. TO COME

ANCHOR PRESS (Doubleday & Co., 245 Park Ave., N.Y., NY 10017) -- 10/76: Androgyny: Towards a New Theory of Sexuality, by June Singer (\$8.95; 288 pp.; 12 b&w linecuts; w/biblio & index; ". . . takes us on a journey throughout the Tao, Gnosticism, the Kabbalah, Alchemy, Astrology, Tibetan Tantrum, Kundalini, Yoga, Freud and Jung, showing us the crucial role the androgynous soul has played throughout recorded history. . . In a world where apparent absolutes dissolve, Singer finds it almost archaic to categorize people on the basis of psychological gender. . . It is no longer necessary for men to be entirely masculine or for women to be entirely feminine. A new breed of person is emerging, the androgynous, in whom the masculine/feminine energies move in constant flux . . .").

BALLANTINE BOOKS (201 E. 50th St., N.Y., NY 10022) -- 8/76: Lovecraft: A Biography, abridged by the author, L. Sprague de Camp (#25115; \$1.95; 496 pp.); The Case of Charles Dexter Ward, by H.P. Lovecraft (#25118; \$1.50; 128 pp.; reissue of Lovecraft's only full-length novel, which "delves into alchemy and the black arts to present a horrifying tale of extended life and revived death"); The Early Del Rey, Vol. 1 (of 2), by Lester del Rey (#25063; \$1.95; 352 pp.; 12 of the 24 stories in the hb volume, from del Rey's 1938-1951 output); Star Trek Log Eight, by Alan Dean Foster (#25141; \$1.50; 192 pp.; based on script from animated TV series); The Reavers of Skait, by Leigh Brackett (#24438; \$1.50; 224 pp.; Eric John Stark #3--last novel in the series).

DELL BOOKS (1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 245 E. 47th St., N.Y., NY 10017) -- 5/76: Chieftan of Andor, by Andrew J. Offutt (see page 3).

THE DIAL PRESS (%Dell Books, address above) -- 3/77: The Far Call, by Gordon R. Dickson (The first title selected for The Dial Press/James Wade Books' international SF program, "Quantum Science Fiction", established in 1975 "to provide for publication of science fiction of outstanding quality throughout the world", with hb and pb publication in the U.S. by Dial Press & Dell, and in the U.K. by Sidgwick & Jackson & Future, and by other publishers in Europe & Asia; Editorial judges for Quantum are Isaac Asimov & Ben Bova; D.R. Benson is consulting editor. The Far Call is a "narrative of the events surrounding an historic first manned Mars expedition in the closing years of this century" that will "incorporate the present Space Age, down to the scientific findings of the unmanned Viking I Mars landing scheduled for touchdown this summer").

DONALD M. GRANT, Publisher (West Kingston, RI 02892) -- The Last Celt: A Biography of Robert E. Howard, by Glenn Lord (\$20; 416 pp.; 7" x 10"; 2,600-copy edition; full-color dj by Marcus Boas; divided into four major sections: "Autobiography", with several pieces written over many years, from "The Wandering Years" to "On Reading and Writing"; "Biography", including articles by Alvin Earl Perry, H.P. Lovecraft, Glenn Lord, E. Hoffman Price & Harold Preece; "Bibliography", with sub-sections on books, fiction, verse, articles, letters, index by periodicals, unpublished fiction & verse, translations, etc.; "Miscellanea", with reproductions of letters and manuscripts, amateur journals, story plots, maps, photos, reproductions of magazine covers, etc.); Rogues in the House, by Robert E. Howard (\$15; 11 full-color illos plus b&w illos by Marcus Boas; 5th volume in matched Conan series, uniform with the others in the series; printed on Ivory Brockway (#80) Text; includes title story "The Frost Giant's Daughter"); The Sowers of the Thunder, by Robert E. Howard (\$12; 2nd ed., ltd to 1,250 copies; color dj, illust end leaves, color frontis & over 100 b&w illos by Roy Krenkel; 1st ed. pub. '73; four tales from ORIENTAL STORIES and MAGIC CARPET: "The Lion of Tiberias", "The Sowers of the Thunder", "Lord of Samarcand", "The Shadow of the Vulture"). ## Now out-of-print are A Witch Shall Be Born, Tower of the Elephant, Almuric, and Red Nails; still in print are Black Vulmea's Vengeance and The Iron Man (\$15 & \$7, resp.; both by Howard), The Bowl of Baal (\$7.50, by Robert Ames Bennet); Virgil Finlay: An Astrology Sketch Book (\$15), The Banner of Joan (\$5; by H. Warner Munn), and, apparently, Out of the Storm (\$10, by William Hope Hodgson).

DOUBLEDAY & CO. (address above) -- 8/76: Deus Irae, by Philip K. Dick & Roger Zelazny (\$5.95); The Grayspace Beast, by Gordon Eklund (\$5.95).

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THE CON GAME --

7/76 (Addenda to list in SFN #7) -- RIVERCON II (30/7-1/8; Stouffer's Louisville Inn, Louisville, KY; GoH, Poul Anderson; Fan GoH, Jodie Offut; TM, Kelly Freas; \$5 adv., \$10 at door; \$20 Singles, \$27 Twins; Banquet, all you can eat for \$8; for info, etc.: P.O. Box 8251, Louisville, KY 40208 [Source: FOSFAX #29]); THE AUGUST PARTY (Star Trek con; 30/7-1/8; Student Union Bldg., Univ. of Md., College Park Campus; regis., \$5; rooms on campus for \$9.65 Single, \$16.10 Double (no air-conditioning; off-campus rooms also available, at higher prices); for info: The August Party, %U.M.A.S.T., Maryland Student Union, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, Attn.: Mary Bloemker [Source: Flyer]).

8/76 -- RICHMOND, VIRGINIA STAR TREK CONVENTION (formerly Norfolk ST Con; 6-8; John Marshall Hotel, Richmond, VA; \$5 adv., \$7 at door; Singles \$21, Doubles \$27; for info: Virginia Interstellar Society, POBox 4187, South Station, Arlington, VA 22204 [flyer]; MYTHCON VII (13-16; at Westbridge Convention Center, 1025 Univ. Ave., Sacramento, CA; 7th Annual Fantasy conf. of the Mythopoeic Society; regis: \$6.50 adult, \$2.50 child (under 12), \$1 supporting; rooms (incl. 3 nights lodging & 8 meals, payable by Aug. 1): \$48 single, \$45/person double; events & features: papers, panels, films, seminars, dealers, a Live Ring Game, art show, drama, & costumed competition; for info, etc.: Mythopoeic Conf. VII, %Mary Morman, 2224 Lerwick #3, Sacramento, CA 95821 [p.c. from Ken Nahigian]); INTERMOUNTAIN STAR TREK S.F. CONVENTION ("Intercon"; 13-14; at Tri Arc Travelodge, Salt Lake City, UT; \$12 attending, \$5 supporting; for info: POBox 11057, Salt Lake City, UT 84147 [PR #1, from Patricia Gallander]); BOFCON (13-15; Melbourne, Australia; 15th Annual Australian National Convention; \$A7.50 attending, \$A4.00 supporting; for info: Carey Handfield, 259 Drummond St., Victoria 3053, Australia [LOCUS #186]); EUROCON 3 (19-22, Voivody Poznan, Poland; registration closed 31/3/76, so this is FYI only....); con info for rest of 8/76 in next issue of SFN.

ON THE MOVE (Changes-of-Address) -- David Ginsburg, 801 Kewadin Village, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858; Don Hutchison, 6 South Drive, Toronto, Ont. M4W 1R1, Canada (eff. 30/7); Guy M. Townsend, 4561 Boeingshire Dr., Memphis, TN 38116 (eff. 30/7); Jeff Summers, 10200 Amestoy Ave., Northridge, CA 91325 (new ZIP); mail returned from Frank Bertrand.

S.F. MART (Classified Ads) --

TOWNSEND'S BOOKS, P.O. Box 30262, Memphis, TN 38130. Write for free lists of hardbound & paperback SF. Want lists welcomed. Search service available.

SF Paperbacks, SFBC editions,azines & assorted miscellany for sale (incl. most Ace Doubles & many anthologies); send want-list (sale list may be out w/TSJ 88). DON MILLER, address on page 1.

THE LOCAL SCENE -- Montgomery County Libraries: films Phantom Toolbooth 2 p.m. 20/7 (juv.) and The Red Balloon & Many Moons 2 p.m. 27/7 (juv.) at Noyes Branch Library (pre-regis. req.); Flash Gordon, Pts. 7-9 7:30 p.m. 21/7, Pts. 10-12 7:30 p.m. 28/7 Twinbrook Branch; film 1776 22/7 7:30 p.m. Wheaton Branch; ## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Libraries: film Animal Farm 22/7 7:30 p.m. at Laurel Branch. ## SMITHSONIAN: Illustrated Lecture, The Cosmic Saga, 28/7 8 p.m.; \$5; Carmichael Auditorium, History & Technology Bldg.; speaker: Dr. Cyril Pennamperuma, Prof. of Chem. & Dir. of Lab. of Chemical Evolution, Univ. of Md.; "traces our society through the first radio message transmitted to a distant galaxy, including the current scientific research and data collected in our search for life beyond earth, and predictions about how such findings may affect our everyday lives"; Exhibition: Robert Rauchenberg; Stoned Moon Series--Lithographs based on the artist's observations of the July '69 launching of Apollo 11 at the Kennedy Space Center; at the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden thru 6/9; in the Nat'l Air & Space Museum: Albert Einstein Spacearium has program, "Cosmic Awakening", which "presents the ways in which the human concept of the universe has changed over the past 200 years and speculates about possible changes in the next century"; 485-seat theatre has ½-hr. film, "To Fly", which

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## THE CLIPJOINT

Film Review Extracts (from the Press) (Contributors--when sending, please be sure the following appear on each clipping: (1) your name (so you can be properly credited); (2) name & date/issue of paper/magazine in which review appeared); (3) name of reviewer; (4) name of author and title of film or book):

LOGAN'S RUN (MGM; dir. Michael Anderson; from David Z. Goodman's screen adaptation of the novel by William F. Nolan & George Clayton Johnson (Dial, '67); w/Jenny Aguller, Michael York, Richard Jordan, Roscoe Lee Browne, Peter Ustinov, Farrah Fawcett-Majors) -- Gary Arnold (WASH. POST 25/6/76): "Logan's Run, a dreadfully stuffy science-fiction escape melodrama . . . is supposed to have cost MGM as much as \$8 million. Perhaps it did, but there isn't \$1.89 worth of cinematic style or excitement in the finished product. . . it's just another expensive stiff, a lavishly mounted but inert production which lacks animating dramatic attributes. There's no tension, no ingenuity, no suspense, no thrills, no glamor. . . Producer Saul David may be the party responsible for the prevailing mood of plodding mediocrity. His big hit, Fantastic Voyage, also mistook elaborate sets and production designs for ingenuity. . . One sequence includes holographic images, but since they're miniatures seen on the regular two-dimensional screen surface, their effect is nil. The potential of holograms won't begin to be exploited until those images can get off the screen and float through the auditorium." ## ? (POST 16/7/75) -- ". . . a crashing bore, guaranteed to make kids long for the good old days of Jaws. This ponderous, elaborately mediocre science-fiction escape melodrama is set in a utopian society of the 23rd Century where it's illegal to live beyond one's 30th birthday. . ." ## John Koch (BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN 24/6/76; sent in by David McGirr): "One of the principal tasks of fiction in general, and science-fiction especially, is to deceive its audience into a state of belief. . . It's something money still can't buy. Even with its multi-million-dollar budget, Logan's Run couldn't fool a normally skeptical four-year-old. Sure, there's lots of futuristic hardware in the film. . . But the behavior of the human beings. . . is something else again. Their conduct, what little of it the movie entitles us to observe, is simply not to be believed. . . Resembling nothing quite so much as refugees from a bad avant-garde ballet, they all exist solely for the purpose of advancing a plot as meager and shop-worn as their daily lives. . . The less said about the acting in Logan's Run, the better. . .";

THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH (?; Dir. Nicholas Roeg; adapted by Paul Mayersberg from 1963 novel by Walter Tevis; w/David Bowie, Candy Clark, Buck Henry, Rip Torn, Bernie Casey) -- Gary Arnold (WASH. POST 17/6/76): ". . . the most sentimental sci-fi picture since Douglas Trumbull's Silent Running. Maybe it's the most sentimental sci-fi story ever filmed. While enthusiasts for the movie are likely to insist that it's an infinitely complex and mysterious allegory--Roeg's tendency to dress up banal sentiments in lush, sophisticated and occasionally frenetic imagery invites such hyperbolic praise--the basic appeal is almost childishly simple and touching. . . . Bowie has an other-worldly presence that can be surprisingly affecting. . . While it may be something of a dubious achievement, The Man Who Fell to Earth is nevertheless a legitimate curiosity. Bowie's presence, Roeg's eye and the sentimental theme should combine to make it the novelty hit of the summer, and it's likely to become a minor sci-fi classic. . ." ## Donia Mills (WASH. STAR 17/6/76): ". . . a science fiction weirdie about the alienating effects of modern life, as suffered in extremis by an extraterrestrial visitor stranded in the American Southwest. . . All of the details are fuzzy, possibly because the story. . . is intended far less in a literal sense than as a parable of the disintegration of American values. . . and so on. . . The cutting of 20 minutes out of the original 2½ hour length left whatever continuity there may have been in a shambles. At two hours, the picture still seems entirely too long. . . Roeg makes an occasional stab at otherworldly effects. . . . But much more interesting is his way of making billboard-strewn American highways and desert vistas look like scenes from a foreign planet. . ." ## Richard Dyer (BOSTON GLOBE 17/6/76; sent in by McGirr): ". . . the trouble with Nicholas  
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Roeg's fascinating, flawed, and very beautiful film . . . is that it does not define, explore, extend [the physical and psychological situations and moral dilemmas in which stranded man-from-space Thomas Jerome Newton finds himself]. . . [Roeg] doesn't know how to tell a story; in basic ways Roeg repeatedly makes it impossible to tell just what is going on . . .)

EMBRYO (?; dir. Ralph Nelson; from screenplay by Jack W. Thomas & Anita Doohan; w/Rock Hudson, Diane Ladd, Barbara Carrera) -- BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN 28/5/76, John Koch, reviewer (sent in by McGirr): "Embryo, a new sci-fi thriller apparently embroidered with some medical fact, is, pardon the expression, pregnant with possibility. Buried in this modern-monster melodrama there's a potentially good movie barely visible under a ton of clap-trap and needless pulp. The plot, like a strand of cobweb spun out by some careless spider, is excessively long and dangerously thin. . . [disconsolate medico] Rock Hudson hits dog on rain-slicked highway; he takes her to his lab and tries to save her, but can't. But he does save one of her unborn pups, using a growth-accelerating hormone he has developed. The result is an unusually brilliant dog. He applies hormone to human fetus--result: "an instant cover-girl beauty, with a brain more like Einstein's than Frankenstein's" . . . Had the script concentrated its energies on her overdue education and adjustment to an unfamiliar world, the movie just might have something quite extraordinary despite all the concessions to tinsel-town nonsense. But unfortunately the melodrama accelerates at a fatal pace, as though it had been ejected with an overdose of the doctor's weird elixir. Instead of transcending its deficiencies, Embryo succumbs to them, and gives up its intriguing human speculations for inhuman spectacle. It culminates in a chaos of scalpel-swinging carnage which figuratively and literally bleeds the characters dry and spoils our fun."

TUNNELVISION (?; dir. Neil Israel & Brad Swinoff; screenplay by Israel & Michael Mislove; w/Chevy Chase, Lorraine Newman, Gerril Graham, Roger Bowen, William Schaller, Rick Hurst, etc.) -- Gary Arnold (WASH. POST 26/6/76): "a brisk, intermittently funny burlesque of television programming, the shows and commercials of a decade hence . . . has its moments, but the level of invention and humor fluctuates from bit to bit, and it would be unwise to anticipate the ultimate in TV putdowns." ## ? (WASH. STAR 11/7/76): "a collection of skits satirizing a full day's programming of the totally uncensored 'People's Network' of the future, circa 1985"

In Brief: FUTUREWORLD (dir. Richard Heffron, from script by Mayo Simon & George Schenck; "a sequel to Michael Crichton's sci-fi thriller Westworld, co-starring Blythe Danner and Peter Fonda as journalists drawn into another tale of horror at Delos, a luxury amusement park of the future. Yul Brunner makes a brief cameo encore as the robot gunfighter."); THE FOOD OF THE GODS (written & dir. by B.I. Gordon; "based on 'a portion of' the H.G. Wells fantasy, may set the new low for mechanization in horror movies. The major monsters here are rats who get as large as palominos after ingesting some magical yellow goo. . . the special effects . . . are not bad for a low-budget film. That is, they're sickingly effective when the time comes--and it often does--for rats to devour people. With Marjoe Gortner, Ida Lupino and Ralph Meeker as the ersatz humans."); THE PREMONITION ("a supernatural thriller about the attempt to locate a missing child by engaging a psychic to make contact with its dead mother. Sharon Farrell and Jeff Corey are among the folks hired to make temporary sense of this tricky premise.") [all from WASH. POST "Calendar"]. ## DEMON SEED (w/Julie Christie; "a chilling account of sensual terror at the turn of the 21st Century when an ultra-sophisticated computer, the most completely independent thinking system ever devised by man, decides to take a lonely young widow as its mate.") [BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN 10/12/75; sent by McGirr]. ## OLD DRACULA (dir. Clive Donner; written by Jeremy Lloyd; w/David Niven, Teresa Graves; "poor excuse for a horror parody . . . whatever potential might be here is drained of any sanguine quality and victimized by creeping sexism and slouching humor.") [Arnie Reisman, THE REAL PAPER (Boston), 4/2/76; sent by McGirr].

## S. F. PARADE

Reviewer, Stan Burns:

The Embedding, by Ian Watson (Scribners '73/'75, \$6.95) -- First American edition of British first novel that was nominated for the Campbell award. Novel has many of the flaws of the typical first novel--the main one being that the author rushes to a conclusion in the last thirty-odd pages that is diametrically opposite to the one he started out for. The story deals with three groups of people facing the same problem: a small primitive band of doomed aborigines in the Amazonian jungle; an experiment in which three different lots of children are being raised in three environments with three different languages; and the first contact with aliens (which is being hushed up for fear of culture shock). All three groups are trying to achieve the discovery of a "perfect" language--one that is inherent (embedded) in the brains of all intelligent species, which will allow perfect communication. The characterization is very good, the language is at times a trifle corny, but overall this is an amazing first novel. Despite its flaws it succeeds on several levels--both as entertainment and as philosophical speculation. Recommended. With a few more novels under his belt, Watson will be a force to be reckoned with....

Combat SF, ed. Gordon R. Dickson (Doubleday '75; \$6.95) -- Collection of stories dealing with combat/war/strategy in science fiction. The 200-page length to which Dickson seems to have been confined has caused him to exclude several major long works in favor of many inferior short ones. For example, he includes one of his own minor shorts, "Ricochet on Miza", rather than one of his better long pieces like "In the Bone" or one of his excellent Dorsai novelettes. There's a good Pournelle original story, "His Truth Goes Marching On", but it isn't as good as Pournelle's excellent "The Mercenary". The only outstanding story in the collection is Anderson's "The Man Who Came Early", about a present-day soldier who is cast back to the 10th century, only to find that all of his skills are useless in a society too primitive and different to furnish him with the tools he needs to build things. All this adds up to a rather so-so collection. I wish Doubleday had given him two or three times the length with which to work--Dickson could have turned out something outstanding. Wait for the paperback....

Comet, by Jane White (Harper, '75/'76; \$7.95) -- I couldn't get more than 70 pages into this one. The author's adult characters talk like six-year-olds. Her style is dreary and repetitious. A mislabeled juvenile....

Reviewer, Jim Goldfrank:

Shakespeare's Planet, by Clifford Simak (Berkley/Putnam & SFBC, '76; 178 pp.) -- This is a philosophical novel which discusses time, space, intelligence, and mankind's place in the universe, in Simak's quiet, reflective tone. The gaggle of characters includes two humans, a robot, a tripartite intelligence collectively known as Ship but which holds threeway discussions with itself, a creature part-way between animal and beast called Carnivore, a body of liquid life called Pond, and the spirit--or hallucination--of a dead man who called himself Shakespeare. This last owned a copy of the "Complete Works of..." and scribbled in all the blank spaces. Nothing to speak of happens in this novel; it is one endless discussion. Recommended as a sure cure for insomnia.

The Gray God Passes, by Robert E. Howard (36 pp., 5 full-page illos & title page by Walt Simonson, paper, center-stapled, \$4, from Charles Miller, 239 N. 4th St., Columbia, PA; '75) -- Caveat emptor! TGGP is evidently one of those tales that REH chose to store in a trunk as unpublishable. Glenn Lord, Howard's literary executor, saw fit to dig it up, its only previous publishing credit being Arkham House's Dark Mind, Dark Heart (1962). ## TGGP introduces Conn, first slave then warrior, not as a protagonist, not even as a unifying theme, but merely "let's show him up from time to time to help hold the plot together". This novella has enough characters for a Russian novel. You can hardly tell the players without a scorecard. There are even too many petty kingdoms, tribes, and clans from Ireland, England, and Scandinavia to keep straight. The story concerns the epic

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battle that drove Odin and his Northmen from Dublin, and is probably nowhere near historical fact (anybody care to research it?). The story does have Howard's genius for mood and action--brooding fate on one hand, hacked limbs and skewered bodies on the other. Never a dull day with Howard! ## This reviewer would guess that this is early Howard. He later learned to cut down the cast of characters, and tighten up his plots. TGGP is recommended to Howard Completists only. Your reviewer wishes he could get a refund.

Reviewer, Don Miller:

The Hellhound Project, by Ron Goulart (Doubleday & Co., '75; \$5.95; 156 pp.; dj by Anita Seigel) -- Thad McIntosh is recruited by the Opposition Party to uncover information about a secret weapon--the Hellhound. To do so, Thad must impersonate Robert Walbrook I, who has been dead for 50 years, and penetrate the heavy security of Walbrook Enterprises, developers of the Hellhound. This he does--and finds the dreaded Hellhound on his own trail.... ## Not very long for a novel--the print is large, the lines doublespaced and there are lots of short chapters with blank pages in between many of them--the entire story could easily have filled just one-half of a normal-sized book, and been paired with another short novel or novella. But the story itself was enjoyable. It was a fast-paced, actionful suspense yarn with an SF setting that was believable (but depressing). Goulart's depiction of the world of 2030 was a pessimistic but logical extrapolation from our world of today--and I saw quite a bit of it and its technology without the background once interfering with the flow of the novel; a nice piece of craftsmanship! ## Rating -- 3.

Brain Twister, by Mark Phillips (Pyramid #F783, pb, 8/62, 144 pp., cover by John Schoenherr; shorter version appeared in ASTOUNDING as "That Sweet Little Old Lady") -- A telepath has been stealing secrets from the minds of scientists at a top-secret government research project, and FBI agent Kenneth J. Malone is called upon to help catch the spy. His mission--to find a telepath ("set a telepath to catch a telepath"). He succeeds--only the telepath he comes up with is a little old lady in an insane asylum who believes she is Queen Elizabeth I and expects her subjects (Ken and his associates) to treat her as such...including the wearing of 16th-century garments as they accompany her about Las Vegas. ## A delightful romp...a relaxing 1½-hours of reading that elicited many a chuckle from me before I had finished it. (The funniest part, incidentally, was the one-page preface describing the authors--Randall Garrett and Laurence M. Janifer--whose joint name is "Mark Phillips".) A little bit dated by events (the story is set in 1971), as are most stories set only a few years forward from their time of writing--but still good fun. ## Rating -- 3.

All Flesh Is Grass, by Clifford D. Simak (Doubleday '65; 260 pp.; Berkley #X1312, pb, 10/66; 224 pp.) -- An intelligent race of telepathic purple flowers, who through its extensive interlocking root system stores the accumulated knowledge of the long-dead people of its home planet, manipulates time to form a barrier around a small rural town. Invisible to the naked eye, this barrier repels any of the higher life-forms which try to pass through it in either direction. The novel describes the interplay between the trapped inhabitants of the town, and efforts of one man to communicate with the flowers (and they with him) to determine the reason behind the barrier (thereby earning the growing distrust and eventual hatred of the increasingly desperate townsfolk who, seeking a scapegoat, blame him for their misfortunes because of his contact with the flowers), and later to pass on his findings to a frightened and skeptical government before that government destroys the town in order to rid itself of the alien menace. ## An excellent story, with a well-developed plot, engaging new concepts, and believable, well-drawn characters acting believably in unique and bizarre situations--as is usual with a Simak novel. The narrative style of the hero, however, was irritating at times, and the ending seemed a bit abrupt when one considers the much slower pace of the rest of the book. ## Still, an experience worth having. ## Rating -- 3. [Repr. from KITTLE PITCHERING HUBBLE DE SHUFF #11]

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